



NEWS RELEASE

**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Camillo

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WAPPAPELLO LAKE PREVENTS CATASTROPHIC FLOODING ON THE LOWER ST. FRANCIS RIVER

WAPPAPELLO, MISSOURI –May 18, 2002: Heavy rains received in the northern parts of the St. Francis River watershed has caused the upper St. Francis River and Wappapello Lake to rise significantly. As of 12:00 noon on Friday, May 18, 2002, the Wappapello Lake level was 394.04 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) and rising. The lake level is forecast to crest at approximately 395 NGVD by early Sunday morning, May 19, 2002, without additional rain. The top of the emergency spillway at Wappapello Lake is 394.74 NGVD. The discharge at the spillway is presently 10,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), which is the maximum allowed under the Wappapello Lake Water Control Manual.

Over the past week and a half, the flood storage capacity of the lake has reduced downstream flows by as much as 80%, thereby preventing catastrophic damage to residential property and farmland downstream of the Wappapello Dam.

For up-to-date information, please call the Wappapello Lake Recreation Hotline at (573) 222-8139 or contact the Wappapello Lake Management Office at (573) 222-8562. Presently, Wappapello Lake personnel are answering the phones 24 hours per day.

